

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0037

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, CSCE, PL, GW

SUBJECT: RELEASED POLISH OFFICIAL ATTACKS FRG

REF A) WARSAW 7621; B) BONN 19524; C) BONN 19954

1. SUMMARY. HENRYK WROBLEWICZ, IN A LENGTHY INTERVIEW CARRIED IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON JANUARY 3, VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED FRG AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR "PROVOCATIVE ACTION" IN ARRESTING HIM FOR ALLEGED ESPIONAGE LAST NOVEMBER. ASSERTING THE "ABSURDITY" OF THE CHARGES AND COMPLAINING ABOUT THE "ILLEGAL" NATURE OF HIS TREATMENT, WROBLEWICZ BLAMED DETENTE OPPONENTS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BUT ULTIMATELY LAID RESPONSIBILITY ON THE FRG GOVERNMENT. APPEARANCE OF THE "INTERVIEW" MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE AFFAIR'S IMPACT ON RATIFICATION OF THE FRG-POLISH AGREEMENT. WE WILL POUCH A FULL TRANSLATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE ARTICLE WHICH WAS ENTITLED "INHERITORS OF HITLERISM STILL OPERATING IN FRG", WROBLEWICZ TERMED THE AFFAIR WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD. HE CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DISCUSS CONSULAR MATTERS WITH POLISH EMBASSIES IN PARIS, VIENNA, AND BONN AND HAD A DIPLO-
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MATIC PASSPORT APPROPRIATELY VISAED BY THE RESPECTIVE

EMBASSIES IN WARSAW. HE DESCRIBED EMOTIONALLY HIS NOSTALGIC RETURN TO THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP WHERE HE HAD BEEN INCARCERATED DURING THE WAR AND THEN LIKENED HIS TREATMENT DURING HIS ARREST AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY WEST GERMAN POLICE AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES TO WHAT HE HAD SUFFERED IN NAZI CAMPS.

3. WROBLEWICZ CONTENDED THAT THE ARREST ORDER DID NOT MENTION HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND CONTAINED THE "ABSURD" CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE AGAINST RFE. HE ASSERTED THAT THE ORDER DESCRIBED RFE AS COMING WITHIN FRG INTERESTS BECAUSE OF ITS STATUS AS AN ORGAN OF AN FRG ALLY, A POINT WHICH HE DEPICTED AS "FRAUGHT WITH POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES".

4. ABOUT HIS RELEASE AND THAT OF Z. BUTKIEWICZ, WROBLEWICZ SAID ONLY THAT FRG AUTHORITIES, REALIZING THE "NAIVITIES" OF THE CHARGES, HAD BEEN FORCED TO YIELD TO INTENSIVE EFFORTS BY POLISH AUTHORITIES. HE ATTRIBUTED HIS ARREST TO FORCES HOSTILE TO CSCE AND DETENTE AND SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A "PROVOCATION" WAS NECESSARY TO THE LIKES OF CSU LEADER STRAUSS WHO SEEK TO IMPAIR FRG-POLISH NORMALIZATION. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT ULTIMATELY THE "RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSEQUENCES" FALL ENTIRELY ON THE BONN GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE LINE ADVANCED IN THE WROBLEWICZ INTERVIEW IS UNREMARKABLE. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS ITS EXTREMELY POLEMICAL TONE AND THE FACT THAT IT APPEARED AT ALL. WE BELIEVE THE EXPLANATION LIES IN A BASIC POLISH APPREHENSION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE AFFAIR ON RATIFICATION OF THE FRG-POLISH AGREEMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE INTERVIEW APPEARS DESIGNED TO OBFUSCATE THE ESPIONAGE ISSUE BY PORTRAYING THE INCIDENT AS PART OF A PLOT TO PREVENT RATIFICATION. AT THE SAME TIME, IT MAY BE MEANT AS A WARNING FOR BONN TO TRY TO KEEP THE LID ON THE AFFAIR.

6. IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT WROBLEWICZ WAS NOT AN MFA EMPLOYEE. THE MFA OFFICIALS IN THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REF A, INCLUDING ONE FROM THE MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMITTED THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW HIM. THE FACT THAT HE WAS OSTENSIBLY ON A CONSULAR AFFAIRS MISSION WAS NOT THEN KNOWN TO US. THE FRG MFA ASSESSMENT REPORTED IN REF B SEEMS CLOSE TO THE MARK, AND WE BELIEVE THIS INTERVIEW IS AN EFFORT TO REPAIR THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO CHANCES FOR RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

DAVIES

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